Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13 ACDA-10 SSM-05 OMB-01 TRSY-06 /102 W ------021400Z 024603 /41

R 011242Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5537

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 2309

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, US, JO, XF, PFOR

SUBJECT: POST SAYS HUSSEIN READY FOR "FULL PEACE"

REF: TEL AVIV 2233

1. CITING INFORMED U.S. SOURCES, THE JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) APRIL 1 FOLLOWED UP REFERENCES TO HUSSEIN IN A STORY TWO DAYS EARLIER ("U.S. HOPEFUL ON ISRAEL DEFENSE LINE SCHEME"--REFTEL) WITH A STORY DATELINED WASHINGTON: "HUSSEIN READY FOR 'FULL PEACE' BUT STANDS FIRM ON JERUSAELM."

BEGIN TEXT

2. JORDAN'S KING HUSSEIN HAS INDICATED TO THE U.S. THAT HE WILL NEVER AGREE TO GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS THE ARAB LEADER WHO GAVE AWAY EAST JERUSALEM.

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3. ACCORDING TO INFORMED U.S. SOURCES, THE JORDANIAN MONARCH IS RAEDY TO RESUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR NEGOTIATING WITH ISRAEL A RETURN OF THE WEST BANK, BUT HUSSEIN IS DEMANDING A VIRTUALLY TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO THE PRE-1967 LINES, INCLUDING A NEW COMPROMISE ARRANGEMENT FOR EAST JERUSALEM SO THAT IT WILL NOT BE UNDER ONLY ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY.

- 4. THE SOURCES HERE SAID THAT HUSSEIN IS PREPARED TO MAKE "REAL" PEACE WITH ISRAEL, INCLUDING, PERHAPS, THE EXTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE IS ALSO PERPARED, THE SOURCES SAID, TO ACCEPT A TEMPORARY ISRAELI MILITARY PRESENCE IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE WEST BANK AND SOME MINOR ADJUSTMENTS IN THE PRE-1967 LINE.
- 5. "WHEN IT COMES TO ACCEPTING ISRAEL'S DEFINITION OF PEACE," AN OFFICIAL HERE SAID, "THERE'S NO PROBLEM WITH HUSSEIN."
- 6. SOURCES HERE SAID THAT IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR JORDAN TO REPLACE THE PLO AS THE ARAB WORLD'S RECOGNIZED NEGOTIATOR WITH ISRAEL OVER THE FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK. BUT ISRAEL WILL FIRST HAVE TO INDICATE A WILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW FROM NEARLY ALL OF THE WEST BANK AND TO DISCUSS A NEW FORMULA FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF EAST JERUSALEM, THE SOURCES SAID.
- 7. HUSSEIN IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE MET PERSONALLY WITH SEVERAL ISRAELI LEADERS OVER THE YEARS IN AN EFFORT TO FIND A SOLUTION. ISRAEL IS KNOWN TO HAVE OFFERED JORDAN SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF THE ALLON PLAN, BUT THE KING HAS ALWAYS REJECTED THAT SCHEME BECAUSE SOME 30 PERCENT OF THE WEST BANK WOULD REVERT TO PERMANENT ISRAELI CONTROL AS WOULD EAST JERUSALEM.

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- 8. AT THE OCTOBER 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE, THE ARAB WORLD PROCLAIMED THE PLO THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE WEST BANK PALESTINIANS, AND HUSSEIN WAS FORCED TO ACCEPT THIS DECISION.
- 9. LATELY, BOTH EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT AND SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASSAD HAVE SPOKEN ABOUT THE NEED OF A FORMAL LINK BETWEEN ANY NEW WEST BANK PALESTINIAN STATE AND JORDAN--A DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS BEEN REGARDED AS WOMEWHAT OF AWEAKENING OF THE RABIT DECISION.
- 10. BUT ANY RESUMPTION OF SERIOUS ISRAELI-JORDANIAN TALKS WOULD HAVE TO INVLOVE A FAR-REACHING ISRAELI TERRITORIAL COMMITMENT IN ADVANCE OF SUCH TALKS. OTHERWISE, THE AMERICANS SAY, HUSSEIN COULD NOT JUSTIFY TO THE REST OF THE ARAB WORLD HIS RE-ENTRY INTO THE NEGOTIATING SCENE WITH ISRAEL AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PLO.
- 11. SOME SORT OF "FACE SAVING" FORMULA FOR INCLUDING

PALESTINIAN (AND EVEN PLO) REPRESENTATIVES WITHIN THE JORDANIAN NEGOTIATING TEAM WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE FOUND, SO THAT IT WAS NOT SEEN AS A TOTAL ABANDONMENT OF THE PLO.

12. WHILE HUSSEIN AND OTHER ARAB LEADERS PUBLICLY DENY ANY INTENTION OF WEAKENING THE STARURE OF THE PLO, SORUCES HERE INSIST THAT THE JORDANIAN MONARCH COULD LINE UP SUFFICIENT SUPPORT IN THE ARAB WORLD TO NEGOTIATE WITH ISRAEL, PROVIDED THAT IT WAS KNOWN IN ADVANCE THAT A FINAL SETTLEMENT WOULD RESULT IN A NEARLY TOTAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE WEST BANK, INCLUDING A NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR EAST JERUSALEM.

13. THE AMERICANS ARE MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HUSSEIN WILL NEVER AGREE TO BE THE ARAB LEADER WHO LOST EAST JERUSALEM PERMANENTLY TO ISRAELI SOVEREIGNTY.

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14. HUSSEIN IS DUE IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF APRIL FOR TWO DAYS OF TALKS WITH PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER AND OTHER U.S. OFFICIALS. END TEXT DUNNIGAN

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